



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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Dr. Kathy Connell promoted to state veterinarian post

OLYMPIA – The state Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Director Valoria Loveland today announced the promotion of Dr. Kathy Connell to the position of state veterinarian. Connell has been the acting state veterinarian since July. Prior to that, she served as assistant state veterinarian for more than eight years. She succeeds Dr. Robert Mead, who retired in June.

“We are fortunate to have a person of Dr. Connell’s caliber to serve as state veterinarian,” said Loveland. “Dr. Connell is experienced in working the complexities of a nationally significant animal health program, and is an advocate for staff, the agricultural industry and the public. She is committed to the highest standards of professional competence, ethical standards and integrity.”

Connell received her degree in veterinary medicine from Washington State University in 1991 and has worked as a veterinarian for 12 years. Her work experience includes more than three years at the Lacey Animal Clinic in Lacey, where she practiced medicine, surgery and dentistry on small and exotic animals. She has served as president of various professional organizations including the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association in 2001.

“I am honored to have been chosen,” remarked Connell. “I am fortunate to have a great staff and the strong support of industry and the agricultural community. I will do the best I can to meet or exceed the high standards set by previous state veterinarians.”

Connell’s work at WSDA includes prevention, detection, control and eradication of serious and infectious animal diseases. She has been instrumental in developing emergency response plans that will be used to minimize damage if a serious foreign animal disease is introduced into Washington.

Connell was born in Denver, the oldest of six children. The family lived in Illinois, Texas and Nebraska. Connell moved to Washington in 1977. She lives in Olympia with her husband, Matthew Porter.

The State Veterinarian’s Office protects, promotes and enhances animal health and welfare by working within the state, nationally and internationally to minimize exposure of people and their animals to harmful animal diseases.

For more information, visit the Web site at <http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/default.htm>.